



SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER – a busy last few months . . .



NARCH participated in the **Animal Rehabilitation Expo** at London ExCel Centre on 10th/11th June. We had a superb stand and Angela Griffiths gave a lecture on 'Hydrotherapy for spinal injury dogs'. We were delighted to welcome so many of you to the NARCH stand, in addition to prospective new members, and we felt the event had been very worthwhile. Big thanks to the volunteers who helped behind the scenes and over the two days. If you did attend don't forget to upload your attendance certificates to gain your CPD hours.

The Expo was immediately followed by our Education Seminar on Sunday 14th June, held at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The venue was stunning but delegates were kept busy

listening to our speakers. We were very lucky to have Dr. Sarah Channon join us from the RVC to lecture on gait biomechanics for canine amputees and also David Ryan talking on behaviour issues. Sarah will be joining us again at the October Education Seminar to talk about the 'The biomechanical aspects of swimming as a mode of locomotion' – right up our street!

STOP PRESS

NARCH AGM followed by Education Seminar – Sunday 18th October, Holiday Inn, Guildford.

Another full lecture programme has been put together with 7 hours CPD awarded to delegates. For full programme details [click here to go to facebook](#). To buy tickets go to [PayPal](#) (you can use credit/debit card or PayPal account).



AUDIT VISITS – an update



**KEEP
CALM
AND
GET IT
DONE**

We have now begun our programme of audit visits and several of you have requested some guidance on how to prepare. The important thing is to read your 'Guide to Professional Conduct' – the orange cover version is the new up to date version. You can [download this from the NARCH website](#) if you have mislaid your own copy. Make sure you comply with everything in the Guide as this is what you will be judged against. From the audits completed so far, we have found the main areas for concern/suspension are:

- failure to ensure vet permission/vet referral for all dogs attending a centre
- failure to maintain accurate and full records
- allowing non RCHs to swim dogs unsupervised

- concerns with water quality, pool maintenance and cleaning routines

Angela Griffiths, responsible for Compliance, comments "our advice would be to get your micro-biological test done now (if you haven't already) and that will show if your pool equipment and daily routines are effective. This is so important for your health, the health of your patients and clients and potentially a legal responsibility if you have employees."

NEW RULES FOR WATER TREADMILLS?



Following recent audit visits, it has become apparent that some RCHs have only trained in pools and never completed specific water treadmill or advanced water treadmill training. Or maybe they trained a number of years ago, and received very little practical training from suitably experienced and qualified trainers/lecturers. This last group are in need of refresher water treadmill training and NARCH will be consulting training providers about the

best way to provide this for existing hydrotherapists. Best practice and treatment protocols have advanced significantly in recent years and it is important that NARCH ensures hydrotherapy treatment offered by members is ethical, effective and up to date. With this in mind the Management Committee are going to revise training and registration requirements from 1st January 2016. This will not affect hydrotherapists who do not operate a water treadmill. There will be an open discussion at the AGM but if you are unable to attend please email and let us know what you think.

CPD – it is mid year so you should have at least 10 hours logged

At the risk of being repetitive, you should have a CPD plan for 2015. Don't get to December and suddenly realise you have no CPD hours uploaded. The CPD year runs from 1st January to 31st December 2015 – and you MUST complete 20 hours CPD in this period. Otherwise you will be automatically suspended from the NARCH register. If you are in any doubt about CPD please send Nicky Kohn (NARCH Administrator) an email for assistance on enquiries@narch.co.uk. Please don't spoil her Christmas by leaving everything to the last minute!



MICRO-BIOLOGICAL TESTING



Several of you have asked for clarification (no pun intended) on pool water testing. So we are repeating the advice note from Keith Fisher TNISPE of Meridian Pools who lectures on Pool Water Management:

The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group advise that hydrotherapy pools are micro-tested every week and normal commercial, public or hotel pools, every month. I would say hydrotherapy pools for small animals sit inbetween the above two pool types, mainly because the water temperature is cooler than in a human hydro pool.

However, microbiological problems should be insignificant in a well designed and operated pool, with an adequate chlorine residual and water in a balanced condition (neither scale forming nor corrosive). Also, filter maintenance carried out as per designers instructions (filter media changed and frequent backwashing).

But I strongly think samples of water should be microtested at monthly intervals to ensure that all is well and this will give you a better picture of the operation and maintenance of your pool. It is recommended that samples are tested on a freshly filled pool before the pool is used for the first time, then at monthly intervals. I also recommend that the pool should be tested after an incident, emergency or contamination.

There are certain infections that have been associated with the use of swimming pools. These have almost invariably resulted from poor management or perhaps a pool design

issue, leading to contamination of the pool water with pathogenic micro-organisms. These bugs may come from the user's faeces, blood, mucus, skin, etc. Micro-biological testing will determine if any micro-organisms are present. The routine micro-biological tests include an overall colony count, E. coli, total coliforms and Pseudomonas Aeruginosa.

In summary get a test done monthly by a professional organisation. They should provide an analytical report signed by the laboratory manager. There are people out there doing DIY testing which must be avoided. Once you have established a 3-4 month test protocol, and providing this reaches a stable level each month, you could then move to a quarterly testing regime.

IMPORTANT – ONLY AN RCH CAN TREAT OR SUPERVISE CARE FOR A PATIENT



It has recently become apparent that some RCHs are still not clear about who can treat or care for a patient. Incorrect interpretations of the NARCH Guide to Professional Conduct have come to light and some people may simply be flouting rules!

So for the sake of clarity can we ask you ALL to read your copy of the Guide, specifically Section 6 "Your professional responsibilities to your patients and colleagues". The following should be observed:

- The RCH is the person deemed responsible for care of the patient
- Anyone who is **NOT** an RCH must be closely supervised. Which means the RCH must be in the same room, actively observing and where necessary the RCH must be capable of immediately intervening/getting into the pool. Therefore an RCH must be fit and in good health to perform this supervisory role – eg. if the RCH is suffering from poor physical or mental health, recovering from surgery or injury or on some medications this would prevent an RCH from supervising adequately.
- Definition of "anyone who is NOT an RCH" includes anyone who has **not completed**

registration with NARCH or is currently suspended, students, volunteers and owners who may swim their own dogs in your pool.

- Holding a Level 3 Certificate in Hydrotherapy for Small Animals (or any other hydrotherapy, physiotherapy or veterinary qualification) in no way indicates whether someone is an RCH – **check the register**.
- **These guidelines apply to all hydrotherapy sessions – pool or water treadmill, rehabilitation or fitness/recreational swims.**
- **Fitness/recreational swims are NOT exempt** – your expertise is vital and you need to be present to act quickly should something go wrong.

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